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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/656,253

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Michael J. Hawthorne

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EXAMINER

LUU, CUONG V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2128

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,253

Applicant(s)

HAWTHORNE ET AL.

Examiner

Cuong V. Luu

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/8/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1-15 have been examined. Claims 1-15 have been rejected.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities:

There is a typographical error. The word "date" (line 6) should have been "data".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mosier (U.S. Patent 4,041,283).

2. As per claim 1, Mosier teaches a method of adjusting a simulator comprising:

inputting the data from a train into the simulator (col. 17, lines 10-14);

operating the simulator with the data (the abstract); and

adjusting automatically parameters of the simulator until data of the simulator matches the data from the train (col. 17, lines 33-41).

3. As per claim 2, Mosier teaches the parameters including grade resistance, curve resistance, rolling resistance, (col. 12, lines 11-18).
4. As per claim 5, Mosier teaches adjusting the parameters includes comparing the simulator data and the train data during a change of velocity (col. 18, lines 43-52. The discussion updating train's speed and updating profile data in these lines suggest periodic comparison of simulator data and train data corresponding with speed of the train. Therefore, it reads on the limitation of this claim).
5. As per claim 6, Mosier teaches the train data is from an event recorder on the train (col. 17, lines 11-14, 22-29. These lines suggest that data is recorded from the train) and adjusting the parameters includes comparing the simulator data and the event recorder data during one or more trip features including: curves, grades, braking and throttle changes (this limitation has already been discussed in claim 5).
6. As per claim 7, these limitations have already been discussed in claims 1 and 5. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
7. As per claim 10, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 1. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.
8. As per claim 11, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 2. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.

9. As per claim 12, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 3. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.

10. As per claim 13, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 6. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.

11. As per claim 14, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 6. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mosier as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lynch et al (U.S. Patent 4,794,548).

12. As per claim 3, Mosier does not teach analyzing the inputted data on the simulator after adjusting of the parameters.

Lynch et al teach this feature (col. 7, lines 47-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Mosier and Lynch et al. Lynch et al's teachings would have helped plan and operate trains with optimum performance (Mosier's col. 1, lines 21-25).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mosier as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lynch et al and Matheson et al (U.S. Patent 5,794,172).

13. As per claim 4, Mosier and Lynch et al do not teach the analysis includes identifying anomalies in the inputted data and reporting the anomalies.

Matheson et al teach this feature (col. 8, lines 32-35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Mosier, Lynch et al, and Matheson et al. Matheson et al's teachings would have been used in the control of or to automatically control the movement of trains through the system (the abstract).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mosier as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Herzberg et al (U.S. Patent 5,023,791).

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14. As per claim 8, Mosier does not teach providing a simulator on the train.

Herzberg et al teach a flight simulator on the plane (col. 4, lines 41-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Mosier and Herzberg et al. Herzberg et al's teachings would have enabled simulation of in-operation conditions of the train (col. 4, lines 41-45).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mosier as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Herzberg et al and Lynch et al.

15. As per claim 9, Mosier and Herzberg et al do not teach storing the adjusted parameters with the data of the train on an event recorder on the train.

Lynch et al teach this feature (col. 7, lines 34-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Mosier, Herzberg et al, and Lynch et al. Lynch et al's teachings would have compiled data to be analyzed later.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mosier as applied to claims 10 and 13 above, and further in view of Lynch et al.

16. As per claim 15, these limitations have already been discussed in claim 9. They are, therefore, rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cuong V. Luu whose telephone number is 571-272-8572. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah, can be reached on 571-272-2279. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CVL

Thay Phan
Thai Phan
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2128